

(Signature)
18. (Once Amended) A self-adhering surface covering comprising:

a substrate;

a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer disposed on the substrate and having an adhesive surface distal from the substrate, the adhesive layer comprising a substantially non-stringing adhesive; and

a barrier layer disposed substantially on and covering between about 1% to about 10% of the adhesive surface, wherein the barrier layer comprises substantially non-adhesive particles selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, barium carbonate, calcium sulfate, barium sulfate, aluminum sulfate, molybdenum disulfide, titanium oxide, aluminum hydroxide, alumina, silica, magnesium oxide, calcium oxide, calcium hydroxide, ferrous oxide, ferric oxide, cured rubbers, ebonite, resins, and combinations thereof, wherein the substantially non-adhesive particles exhibit a crush resistance of at least about 10 psi.

REMARKS

Claims 18-34 are currently pending. Applicant has amended claim 18 to further include the limitations of the non-adhesive particles covering between about 1% to about 10% of the adhesive surface. Support for this amendment can be found on page 9, lines 20-21, of the present specification. Additionally, Applicant has amended claim 18 to recite that the non-adhesive particles are selected from the group consisting of those listed on page 9, lines 6-15. The listed group excludes hollow glass beads. Thus, claims 18-34 are currently pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application.